

Southern WV Safety Alert



In an attempt to access a water supply for a coal processing plant, an electrical contractor was installing a water pump in an abandoned mine shaft through the concrete shaft seal cap. Arc welding required during the pump installation ignited methane gas causing an explosion. The five contractor employees received burns and other injuries as a result of the explosion.



Preventive Practices:

- ✓ Conduct methane tests prior to welding in any areas where methane may be present or may accumulate.
- ✓ Ensure that ignition sources are prohibited in areas where explosion hazards may exist.
- ✓ Conduct thorough on-shift examinations, including methane tests, to ensure that hazardous conditions are identified and corrected.



U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration